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China Mail

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No. 19104. 五拜禮 號八月二年四十二百九千一英

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1924

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ALLEGED SECRET COMPACT.

POLITICAL SENSATION.
LOYD GEORGE EXPLAINS.
STATEMENTS RIDICULOUS.
JOURNALIST ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY.
(*Reuter's Service to the China Mail.*)

[That a secret compact in regard to the occupation of German territory was made between ex-President Wilson and M. Clemenceau in March, 1919, during Mr. Lloyd George's absence from Paris was the statement made in an interview with Mr. Lloyd George published in the *New York World*. Mr. Lloyd George says he was called to London at a critical moment by the famous attack in the House of Commons organised by Lord Northcliffe's telegram. When he returned he found that Wilson had surrendered to Clemenceau and thus the French gained the right to occupy the Rhine country which was finally included in the Treaty. He had only recently discovered that during his absence in London M. Clemenceau and ex-President Wilson had signed a secret compact, having just received the documents from the Foreign Office.]



LOYD GEORGE

LONDON, February 7.
In an article in the *Daily Chronicle*, Mr. Lloyd George states that he is unable to accept the views attributed to him in the *New York World* article as accurately setting out the facts concerning what happened at a critical moment of the peace conference.

He declares that when he returned to Paris from London in April of 1919 he found that agreement had been reached between Dr. Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, and M. Clemenceau, Premier of France, on two very important issues—firstly the military occupation of the Rhineland, and secondly American guarantees for the French frontier against German aggression.

NOBODY TO BLAME.
"To describe the agreement as a secret compact between Dr. Wilson and Mr. Clemenceau is ridiculous. Dr. Wilson acted with perfect loyalty, and blame cannot be imputed either to him or to M. Clemenceau that I was called to England when grave matters were under discussion. The fact that Dr. Wilson and M. Clemenceau had reached the agreement was communicated to me upon my return, and the agreement regarding the occupation of the Rhineland was after some modification ultimately incorporated in the peace treaty."

ALREADY PUBLISHED documents when published will tell their own tale. He expresses regret at the delay in replying to the Foreign Office letter. This was due to the fact that the letter was not signed. He expresses the opinion that it would have been fairer if Mr. Ramsay MacDonald had waited to hear his explanation before making the statement he did to the Press.

Mr. Lloyd George concludes that Mr. MacDonald probably found most, if not all these documents, had already been published by M. Tardieu in France or by Mr. Baker in America. "Both these gentlemen are members of the most secret documents of the Paris conference."

[M. Tardieu, member of the French Chamber of Deputies, was French Plenipotentiary at the Peace Conference. Mr. Baker was War Secretary in Dr. Wilson's Cabinet during the War. It was largely due to his skill that the first contingent of trained American troops was landed on French soil in April, 1917.]

PLACATING POINCARÉ.
LONDON, February 7.
It is understood that besides instructing Lord Crewe, the Ambassador to France to call on M. Poincaré and explain the whole situation Mr. Ramsay MacDonald communicated personally with M. Poincaré as regards the Lloyd George incident.

It appears there was only one set of the proofs of the documents at the Foreign Office and as these were sent to Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. MacDonald had not yet seen them.

REPARATION QUESTIONS.
PREMIERS' FRIENDLY OVERTURES.
BRITAIN'S FIRM POLICY.
(*Reuter's Service to the China Mail.*)

The view of the British Government is that unless something new or unexpected occurs the British policy now being formulated will be acceptable in Paris. It is a policy of sympathy but also of great firmness in protecting Britain's legitimate interests.

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FRANCE'S DEBT.
It is impossible to deal with the question of the French debt to Britain until the Government receives the reparations reports. The Government does not intend to regard the French debt as a separate issue, but rather as a negotiable asset in conjunction with other outstanding questions. It is understood that Mr. MacDonald is very anxious for an Anglo-French agreement upon policy which will be a real and effective contribution to European peace. He is anxious to invite the cooperation of the United States and to secure the sympathy and interest of the smaller European nations.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.
The Government hopes that formal recognition of Russia will be the first step towards the accomplishment of much practical work through the operation of several commissions which will be established to deal with outstanding problems, including debts.

It is the intention of the Government to establish machinery to deal with the important question of anti-British propaganda which must be settled. The Cabinet holds the unanimous belief that the effectiveness of the League of Nations is conditional upon the accession of Germany and Russia.

UNFOUNDED CALUMNIES.
FRANCE ANSWERS GERMANY.

PARIS, February 7.
M. Poincaré, replying to the German note of February 5 says that the fresh calumnies by the Reich are not supported by anything like proof. M. Poincaré's reply concludes that the French Government is scrupulously observing treaties and remains determined not to intervene in German internal quarrels. Therefore it will not enter into conversations with the German Government as regards domestic affairs.

[The German Government sent a note to French and Belgian Governments urging the immediate withdrawal of measures where by the importation of French and Belgian goods into the occupied territory was favoured, inasmuch as the customs duty on spirits, silk-clothing etc. was reduced, whilst the duties on raw materials and semi-manufactured goods had been increased. The note alleged that the intention was to separate economically the occupied territory for Germany and to secure its orientation to France and Belgium.]

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.
FREE COMMONS VOTE.

LONDON, February 7.
Reuter learns that the Imperial Conference resolution will be moved in the House of Commons from the Government Bench and submitted to free vote. The resolutions are regarded as very important, emanating from a body which the Government holds in highest respect. Each will be explained by the Minister in charge. If there are any points with which the Government does not entirely agree, the Government will explain their position. If a resolution involves extra taxation the Treasury will give their view and procedure of Parliament thereon will be exactly the same, as if the Government themselves were responsible.

FRANCE GOVERNMENT SAFE.
[PARIS, February 7.
The Chamber of Deputies has expressed confidence in the Government by passing an important clause of the financial proposal by 333 to 205 votes.]

George was not aware that Mr. Spender intended to use the observations in an article. Mr. Lloyd George did not authorise the statements and "if I have been induced to take the whole blame."

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AT
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MONDAY, February 11th to SATURDAY, February 16th
During this week we will offer all remnants and oddments that have accumulated during our Sale and all soiled and fashion goods at
GIVING AWAY PRICES
\$20,000 worth of goods to be cleared at
LESS THAN COST
THOUSANDS OF BARGAINS
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HONGKONG

INTIMATIONS.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of the Shareholders in this Corporation will be held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on SATURDAY, the 23rd February, 1924, at 11.30 a.m. for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Court of Directors together with a Statement of Accounts for the Year ending 31st December, 1923.

The Register of Shares of the Corporation will be CLOSED on MONDAY, 11th February to SATURDAY, 23rd February, 1924 (both days inclusive) during which period no transfer of shares can be registered.

AND NOTICE is hereby given that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Shareholders of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will be held on the day and at the place aforesaid immediately upon the termination of the Ordinary Yearly Meeting for the purpose of considering and if thought fit of passing the following resolution:

That the Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation be and they are hereby requested and authorised by and on behalf of the Shareholders of the Corporation to take the steps necessary for the introduction of an Ordinance into the Legislative Council of the Colony of Hongkong and for the enactment of the same by the Governor of Hongkong with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof to effect the amendments necessary to the Ordinance under which the Corporation is incorporated and carrying on business so as to allow of the ordinary note issue of the Corporation being increased from \$20,000,000 to \$50,000,000 and to modify the existing requirements as regards the deposit of security in respect of its note issue in the following manner:

(a) So that the whole of the increase (namely \$30,000,000) of such ordinary note issue shall be secured by coin or bullion or approved securities.

(b) To provide that whatever the total amount of the note issue may be at any particular time the amount of coin as distinct from bullion or approved securities to be deposited by the Corporation shall never be less than one third of the total amount of the bills in actual circulation.

By Order of the Court of Directors.

A. G. STEPHEN,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 4th February, 1924.

NATIONAL LOANS.

SUBSCRIBERS to the National Loans of the Third Year of the Republic (1924) and the Eleventh Year of the Republic (1922) are hereby notified that the following Drawings for the redemption of the above Loans will be held this year.

THIRD YEAR LOAN.

2nd June 1924: 7th Drawing (\$2,750,000 approx.); redemption begins 30th June.

1st December 1924: 8th Drawing (\$2,750,000 approx.); redemption begins 31st December.

It is to be noted that two Drawings of this Loan, instead of one, are being held this year in order to bring the redemption of the Loan and its extinction in 1925 into line with the schedule of amortisation prescribed by the Loan regulations.

ELEVENTH YEAR LOAN.

10th May 1924: 3rd Drawing (\$1,000,000); redemption begins 31st May.

10th November 1924: 4th Drawing (\$1,000,000); redemption begins 30th November.

The service of the above two Loans is conducted independently and forms no part of the National Consolidated Loan Service.

F. A. AGLEN,
Inspector General of Customs,
Peking, 23rd January 1924.

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SERVICE

INTIMATIONS.

HONGKONG BOXING ASSOCIATION.

FOURTH TOURNAMENT OF THE SEASON.

FRIDAY, 8th February, 1924
At 9.15 p.m.,
At the
THEATRE ROYAL.

MAIN EVENT.

Fifteen Round Featherweight Championship of the Colony and the Scott Hamilton Belt.

Stoker P. O. Jim Cartledge,
Royal Naval Yard,
(Imperial Services Featherweight Champion)

vs.
A. B. Chadwick,
H.M.S. "Marazion,"
(Lightweight Champion of the Colony).

Also One ten round Light Weight Contest and One Weight, One Light Weight, Two Featherweight and One Flyweight Contest each of six rounds.

Booking—For Members only on the 4th February at Moutrie's 5th February, at the Hongkong Hotel. For the General Public on the 6th February, at the Hongkong Hotel. On the 7th and 8th February, at Moutrie's.

Usual Prices.

Next Tournament March 8th, at the Theatre Royal.

HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS IN THIS COMPANY will be held at the Hongkong Hotel, Hongkong on SATURDAY, the 9th February 1924, at 11 a.m. for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with a Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1923.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be closed from the 1st February to the 9th February (both days inclusive), during which period no transfer of Shares can be registered.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 23rd January, 1924.

NOTICE.

PALACE HOTEL, KOWLOON.

THE POPULAR CONCERT PARTY OF

H.M.S. "DIOMEDE" will give a Performance in the Palace Hotel on Friday. Residents and Friends are cordially invited.

HONGKONG TRAMWAYS LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the REGISTER OF MEMBERS OF THE HONGKONG TRAMWAYS LIMITED, will be CLOSED on THURSDAY, 14th February to WEDNESDAY, 27th February 1924 both days inclusive.

W. E. ROBERTS,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 7th February, 1924.

G. R.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

PARTICULARS AND Conditions of the Sale by Public Auction to be held on MONDAY, the 11th of February 1924, at 2 p.m., at the Office of the Public Works Department, by Order of His Excellency the Governor, of One Lot of CROWN LAND at Shek Shan in the Colony of Hongkong, for a term of 75 years, with the option of renewal at a Crown Rent to be fixed by the Surveyor of His Majesty the King, for one further term of 75 years.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

No. of Lot	Boundary Measurements	Area	Approx. Value
1	N. 1/2 Sec. 15, T. 12 S., R. 10 E., 1/2 Sec. 16, T. 12 S., R. 10 E., 1/2 Sec. 17, T. 12 S., R. 10 E., 1/2 Sec. 18, T. 12 S., R. 10 E.	10.00	100.00
2	N. 1/2 Sec. 19, T. 12 S., R. 10 E., 1/2 Sec. 20, T. 12 S., R. 10 E., 1/2 Sec. 21, T. 12 S., R. 10 E., 1/2 Sec. 22, T. 12 S., R. 10 E.	10.00	100.00
3	N. 1/2 Sec. 23, T. 12 S., R. 10 E., 1/2 Sec. 24, T. 12 S., R. 10 E., 1/2 Sec. 25, T. 12 S., R. 10 E., 1/2 Sec. 26, T. 12 S., R. 10 E.	10.00	100.00
4	N. 1/2 Sec. 27, T. 12 S., R. 10 E., 1/2 Sec. 28, T. 12 S., R. 10 E., 1/2 Sec. 29, T. 12 S., R. 10 E., 1/2 Sec. 30, T. 12 S., R. 10 E.	10.00	100.00

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FARES FOR PUBLIC VEHICLES.

The fares prescribed for public vehicles are as follows:

1.—In the Island of Hongkong, Kowloon, Road and Lower Levels, and in Kowloon, and New Kowloon.

MAIL WEEK NEWS.

ITEMS FROM FAR AND NEAR.

You'll Never Forget

MRS. WALLACE REID

— in —

HUMAN WRECKAGE

HIDDEN TREASURE.

FAMOUS PICTURES ROTTING IN A CELLAR.

Miss M. L. Pendered, in John Martin, Painter, gives a most interesting account of a British artist who was once regarded as the equal of Turner.

Ruskin, indeed, who had no liking for Martin's work, declared 70 years ago that he was one of the four painters "who had and still have the most influence on the ordinary Protestant mind."

The first Lord Lytton pronounced him "the most original genius of his age."

It is sad to discover that his immense Biblical canvases are now hidden away in some cellar—if, indeed, they survive at all.

When they had been shown

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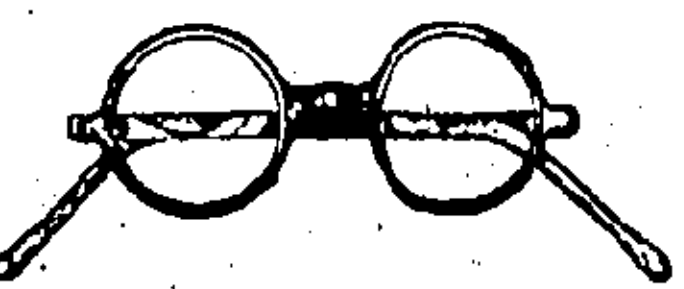
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DEATH.

PETRIE.—On the 8th February, 1924, of pneumonia, Little, the dearly beloved wife of Thomas Petrie. Funeral passes the Monument to-day at 5 p.m. (Shanghai and Japan papers please copy.)

The China Mail.

HONGKONG FRIDAY, FEB. 8, 1924.

DOLLARS.

The experience common to most of us who come to sojourn in this "emerald" of the East is that of turning all things that have a price attached to them or the things we are called upon to buy, into sterling. We may take an arbitrary and generally easy term of 2/- equalling the dollar, and a quick sum in mental arithmetic decides for us and for all time whether a thing is cheap or whether it is dear. The habit continues until we become acclimatised and this wavering fluctuating elusive coinage or rather currency becomes part of our very selves a thing we dream of unconsciously it may be, long for, and alas! work to get. Our vision from Bishop to Boy, from Taipei to Typhoon, is coloured by the recurring thought of the dollar. We assess ourselves, we are not resident in this part state of humidity for the good

of our health, and act accordingly. The acquiring urge dominates our existence and the successful man is known by his possessions be they in the form of solid bank balances, denture Deposit Receipts, or share scrip. From small beginnings or reference to a few hundreds, we talk in thousands, and more recently the easy and musical-sounding million escapes our lips as doth the fleeting breath of the mortal body. The sex urge is said to be man's most eager companion, but in this spot we dare assert the dollar urge runs it more than close, indeed dominates and rules. Compare existence in the Far East with that in what we call Home and to which we often refer in longing loving terms—and for which we are all unconsciously perhaps striving. There is probably no comparison. Sufficient unto the day. Our work contents us with some exceptions of course and our enjoyments and recreations proceed on ordinary and more or less sufficient lines. Municipalities not only order our goings in and coming out, but in reason they provide for us opportunities for the exercise of our better feelings and faculties. There we have our art galleries, our concerts and the enjoyments peculiar to the open air. Very rarely, unless we are wrong in our diagnosis, does the acquisitive urge impel us to contracts which, should they veer in the direction opposite to that on which we have set our hearts, will land us in Queer Street or make it impossible for us to honour our undertakings. But here

the thing is vastly different and probably defies safe and accurate analysis. It may be, we are inclined to think it is, the methods of business, and more, that of speculation, adopted by our oriental neighbours; that lures us on very often to a Wallingfordian method of acquiring wealth, getting rich we mean, not by the solid if weary methods of thrift, but by the short cuts that hinge on chance and make us optimists for a day, and alas! in many cases pessimists and despondents for ever. Appreciation and depreciation in many of the things that excite our passions are obviously not based on fair and reasonable revolutions of the market. Sudden rises are often in the main the result of rumour—intelligent anticipation, and booms result in degrees of disappointment commensurate with our plunging. We perhaps magnify and therefore bring into it the many who would chide us in the general casting of our net and the sweeping generalities in which we indulge. If so, sorrow is ours. We are aware that there are those amongst us who take a day at a time, who, having found their work, abide in its blessings and are content in the knowledge of them. We would wish that their numbers were greater. We are sure it would be for the greater good of the community and for the Colony as a whole. But example is greater than precept. From which it will be seen that we were not in the recent boom; nor do hold Directorships and are as rich as we deserve to be.

Dying Off At the Top.

Dean Inge, of St. Paul's, London, is one of the prophets of his time. If he is without honour in his own country that is but the fate of all the great Seers down through the corridors of time. Dr. Inge's latest message should prove an arresting one. He has been lecturing in London on the subject of "National Decay," insisting that the British people are degenerating; that they are not, racially, as sound as they were and that they are going rapidly from bad to worse. "We are," he says, "breeding from the bottom and dying off at the top. In each year the cream of all classes is skimmed off and mixed to a better social position, where it is sterilised. It is a bad symptom that the lowest birth rate is among the doctors, clergy and teachers. It is the slum dwellers who will be the fathers of the next generation. The highest birth rate is that of the feeble-minded." Here are thoughts that breathe and words that burn. Biologists the world over, and this in their special field, are breaching much the same doctrine, telling the same story of the multiplication of the unfit. The underman, by this process, is, we are told, becoming increasingly a danger to all countries, his attitude being one of instinctive and natural revolt against a civilisation to which he is incapable of relating himself. Every Society, says Lothrop Stoddard, in his latest book, "The Revolt Against Civilization," "engenders within itself hordes of savages and barbarians, ripe for revolt. In normal times, these elements of chaos go unperceived. Civilisation automatically evolves strong social controls which keep down the anti-social elements. For one thing, the civilised man instinctively supports his civilisation, just as the underman instinctively opposes it; and when civilisation is threatened, its supporters instantly rise in its defence. Again, Society maintains a permanent standing army (composed of policemen, soldiers, Judges and others), which is usually quite capable of keeping order. The mere presence of this standing army deters the anti-social elements from mass action. Desperate individuals, of course, break forth into crime, but Society hunts them down, and eliminates them by prison and the scaffold. The underman may thus be controlled. But he remains; he multiplies and then his time comes. When a civilisation falters beneath its own weight and by the decay of its human foundations; when its structure is shaken by the storms of war, dissension or calamity; then the long-repressed forces of atavistic revolt gather themselves together for a spring. And, noteworthy fact, such revolts usually have able leaders."

Adventurous souls with a sigh Wednesday's Reuter cable from Vancouver that a Canadian expedition composed of Vancouver men, headed by Capt. Pollinghouse has left aboard a small steamer for Cocos Island in order to search for the treasure reported to have been buried there by pirates in the early nineteenth century. This will not be the first time that Cocos Island will have been searched for pirate gold, reputed to amount to \$200,000,000 in doubloons. According to some authorities, the treasure is no longer on Cocos Island, but awaits discovery on Tubai Island, a picturesque little spot away in the South Pacific. Not long ago, indeed, we were told that a company

was making a search there, under the direction of a Mr. Frank Homes, of Portsmouth, one of the principal pioneers in developing the island. Up to that time, the quest for the hidden booty had resulted only in the discovery of a few bones secreted beneath a native altar. The story of the search is interesting. Acting on information obtained from Captain Brown, an aged seaman, who had sailed the South Sea during its most romantic days, the expedition spent several weeks digging and blasting on the islet. Every possible hiding-place was searched without avail, and the treasure-seekers then decided again to interrogate the old skipper, who lived in New York. Then having obtained all possible particulars from Captain Brown, the party bought a yacht for \$15,000, equipped her for several months' cruise, and posing as an expedition for making moving pictures, set sail for the scene of operations. Brown's tale was that he had learned of the treasure when there was a cabin boy sailing in the South Pacific. Some of the gold was originally hidden on the island of Cocos, but was removed to Tubai by a captain, who turned pirate, and by capturing three vessels, was able to add substantially to the spoil.

All of these statements were carefully investigated before the promoters started out to sell 200,000 dollars' worth of stock. In London it was learned that vessels had appeared under conditions described by the old sailor, who also stated that the captain had taken \$50,000 dollars to Australia, and deposited it in a bank there. It was also ascertained that other expeditions in search of the treasure had failed. Brown, however, was so confident that the gold was still at the island that a company was formed, one half of the treasure to be divided between the stockholders and the other half to go to the old mariner. When the native altar was found, where Captain Brown declared that the treasure was buried, there was great excitement among the members of the expedition. After digging down to water, however, no sea chests were discovered. Several other altars were dug up, but nothing was found but the bones of natives. The promoters are not disheartened, and are still convinced that there is truth in the old sea dog's tale. After a short spell from the labourious task, they propose to resume operations, even to the extent of excavating every part of the island, which is 15 miles across.

Old Resident Wilson, who suggested the Public Holidays, was not only a great statesman but he was also a masterly speaker—witness his speech to Congress when the United States joined the Allies. This great piece of prose was as follows:—"It is a distressing and oppressive duty, gentlemen of the Congress, which I have performed in thus addressing you. There are, it may be, many moments of fiery trial and sacrifice ahead of us. It is a fearful thing to lead this great, peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance. But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own government, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations, and make the world itself at last free. To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are, and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured. God helping her, she can do no other."

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Adventurous souls with a sigh Wednesday's Reuter cable from Vancouver that a Canadian expedition composed of Vancouver men, headed by Capt. Pollinghouse has left aboard a small steamer for Cocos Island in order to search for the treasure reported to have been buried there by pirates in the early nineteenth century. This will not be the first time that Cocos Island will have been searched for pirate gold, reputed to amount to \$200,000,000 in doubloons. According to some authorities, the treasure is no longer on Cocos Island, but awaits discovery on Tubai Island, a picturesque little spot away in the South Pacific. Not long ago, indeed, we were told that a company

SHADOWS BEFORE.

Coming Events Advertised
in The Mail.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

February 8.—Coronet Theatre; Jackie Coogan in "My Boy".
February 8.—Star Theatre; Mary McLaren in "The Wild Goose".
February 8.—World Theatre; Harold Lloyd in "Why Worry".
February 18.—Pianoforte Recital at City Hall, 5.30 p.m.
February 8.—Performance given by the Popular Concert Party of H.M.S. "Diomedes" in Palace Hotel.
February 23.—Royal Air Force Re-union Dinner.
March 1.—St. David's Society Dinner.

February 8.—Fourth tournament of the Hongkong Boxing Association at the Theatre Royal, 9.15 p.m.
February 11.—At P. W. D. Offices, one lot of Crown Land at Shek Wan, 3 p.m.

February 23.—Annual meeting of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at City Hall, 11.30 p.m.
February 25.—Thirty-seventh meeting of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., at Messrs. Jardine's offices, 11 a.m.

February 11.—Annual General Meeting, Kowloon Residents' Association, St. Andrew's Church Hall, 6 p.m.

Sixteen cases of small-pox were reported yesterday.

A small Chinese boy, aged 7 was knocked down by motor car 201 at the junction of Queen's Road West and Water Street yesterday and was injured in the head.

According to a Reuter cable from Rome the Italo-Russian Treaty has been signed. By this treaty Italy recognises the Soviets and receives in return certain trading concessions.

The departure of the home-bound P. & O. Mail Steamer "Kashgar" from Shanghai was delayed for 38 hours by fog and she is accordingly not leaving Hongkong until 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 10.

The Admiral Oriental Liners will now have on the Trans-Pacific leg of their outward and homeward voyages, two sea-post clerks. Heretofore these liners have carried but one. It is planned to discharge on outward voyage the second sea-post clerk at Kobe; where he will join the homeward steamer. The placing of two sea-post clerks on Admiral Oriental Line-carried mail will be a distinct innovation and should be a means of bettering mail services.

A Tokyo message to the Daily Bulletin states that Ambassador self left for Berlin yesterday via Siberia on a short furlough.

Mrs. J. H. Keating, Mr. F. C. Clemo, Mr. J. W. McPhail and Mrs. G. E. Aubrey, are passengers on the "Mentor" which left for London to-day.

The late Mr. R. Nettleton Goodwin, Managing Editor of the Pingan Gazette, whose death was reported in the cables yesterday, was a journalist with wide and varied experience on English provincial papers, as well as on the Jamaica Daily Gleaner, the New York Herald, the Paris Daily Mail, and the Calcutta Englishman. He became Managing Editor of the Pingan Gazette in 1910.

OFFICER'S SUICIDE.

FOUND DEAD IN HIS CABIN.

Alex. Fr. Nelson, a Swede, fourth officer on the Swedish motor-ship "Hemland" was found dead in his cabin yesterday with the arteries of his wrist severed. The "Hemland" was lying at No. 2, Kowloon Wharf and the body was removed by the water police to the public mortuary.

Nelson was 31 years of age and it is surmised he committed suicide, though little is known of a possible motive. He will be buried to-day at the Protestant Cemetery and the burial service will be conducted by Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald. Writings have been sent by parents, brothers and sisters of the deceased, Captain and Officers of the Swedish Motor-ship "Hemland". The Swedish East Asiatic Co. Ltd. and The Swedish Trading Co. Ltd.

MAH-JONGG.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

[By "SIX JAR WOO."]

Interest in the fascinating game of Mah-Jongg having embraced the most cosmopolitan corner of this Colony, does away with the necessity of an apology for writing a few brief notes in the hopes that something may be done to smooth away its intricacies for beginners. It is not proposed that this should be a court for deciding the merits of Flowers and Seasons or whether the Peking, Shanghai or Canton system of reckoning is the best or most commonly accepted. Nevertheless, it is felt that some good will be done by obtaining gossip of the game in Hongkong and from time to time, the views of enthusiasts of all degrees so that one can always, at least, get the opinions of players with whom it is not possible to get into contact otherwise. If readers, desiring information regarding the game or wishing to have any point cleared up, will address their questions to me, c/o the China Mail, the replies will appear in this column on the following Thursdays.

Hongkong will be highly interested to read the following from Pearson's Magazine, by Olga Raoster with an introduction by Miss Sybil Thorndike, LL.D., President of the Mah-Jongg League, No. 9, Young Street, Kensington Square, (nearly opposite Thackeray's House):—

"The Mah-Jongg League Ltd. made its bow to the world last October, but it was in the minds of its promoters long before that. Miss L. C. Harston, one of the well-known family of Scott Harstons of Hongkong, whose name is the word in everything to do with China, together with her cousin Mrs. Scott Harston, Miss Jessica Grove, a member of the family of which Sir George Grove was the brilliant head—himself a keen orientalist—and myself, were all enthusiastic players of the game long before it came to England."

Miss Raoster's article gives the impression that at Home, pioneers have had to contend with the difficulty of multifarious and conflicting authorities who are all emphatic but are equally differing on minor details. However, it is stated that "after a consultation with players, Chinese and English, teachers and embryo members (of the League), a set of rules was drawn up in which the methods of North and South China were assimilated." Reference is made to the interest evinced in the League rules as they were being written, in glowing terms:—"and guarded as carefully as the Crown jewels. The directors have been at various times bullied, entreated, and gently bribed to divulge the contents."

As to the origin of the game, it may perhaps be news even to local players to learn that "In the centuries gone by Mah-Jongg was the exclusive property of the mandarins—the nobility of China. Confucius is said to have played it two thousand years ago, and its origin is ascribed variously to the building of the Great Wall of China, to a fisherman, to an uprising in the Shang (?) dynasty, and to a Chinese general."

Next Thursday I shall endeavour to give a few suggestions—not necessarily original, but picked up by a scrutiny in the leading Chinese clubs—which may be helpful to organising Mah-Jongg parties and otherwise stimulating interest, also an anecdote connected with the game.

TROUBLE AT AMOY.

"TENSE SITUATION" ARISES.

PEKING, February 7. Telegrams from Amoy report that a tense situation developed there resulting from the killing of seven Formosans by General Teang's "Ching-ping" troops while searching for arms. Fearing an attack from the mainland, the American Consul-General, on Sunday, wired to Hongkong for a destroyer, which arrived on Tuesday, returning the following day to Hongkong, as the situation had quietened. It is understood that a Japanese naval force is shortly proceeding to Amoy. Courtesy Daily Bulletin.

INTERPORT SPORT.

TWO SHANGHAI VICTORIES.

SHANGHAI, Feb. 7. In the interport rugby match, between Shanghai and Tientsin, the former won by 14 to 11. HANKOW, February 7. In the interport hockey match, Shanghai defeated Hankow by 4 to 0. Shanghai defeated Tientsin by 3 to 0. Hankow defeated Tientsin by 3 to 1. Courtesy Daily Bulletin.

PEKING NEWS.

CHATTY GOSHIP FROM THE CAPITAL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

PEKING, January 27. MINISTERS.

Greatly to the public's surprise, Messrs. Chang Koo-man and Wang Keh-ming assumed the offices of Ministers of Education and Finance, in Sun Pao-chi's Cabinet to which they had previously been appointed. With further regard to Mr. Wang a strong movement has been afoot to impeach him, but from the fact that he, together with Mr. Chang Koo-man attended the Cabinet meeting on Thursday last would seem to indicate that the Parliamentarians have decided to drop their anti-Wang agitation, at least for the present, or is it that the members who are extremely anxious to receive their salaries before the New Year, have become alarmed, lest in their impeachment of Mr. Wang (the only source from which there is any hope) they may have to pass the New Year, without even a quacker for the Kitchen God. It seems, however, that Mr. Wang seems to think that he can get hold of a fairly substantial sum for the New Year, and Mr. Chang is not without hope that some money will be forthcoming for the Schools. Exactly where Mr. Wang will get the money is uncertain, but something like \$2,000,000 will be available from the Salt Surplus, but more than double that amount is needed at once.

APPROPOS the Salt Funds. On Friday, the 25th inst. the Salt Revenue Dept., issued a statement which is as follows: After meeting all administrative expenses the group banks during the year 1923 were credited the amount \$79,545,000, which shows a decrease of \$3,244,000 as compared with revenue realized in 1922 (\$85,789,000). All obligations secured on the Salt Gabelle were fully met and surplus funds were released to the Chinese Government during 1923, amounting to \$71,500,000 (including \$12,500,000 received from the Customs), \$20,000,000 of this seventy-one million dollars, in process of being "turned over" apparently consisted of letting the local provincial officials and Military Commanders keep what they had seized. No other deductions have been mentioned in the statement, it is presumed therefore, the Peking authorities yet cash \$41,293,000 during 1923 from the Salt Gabelle alone. Just what happened to the \$41,293,000 no one seems to know, but the responsibility of the Salt Gabelle ends when the money is turned over to the Government, and so it cannot be expected to account for this \$41,293,000. One thing is certain, the Peking Government will have to have some pretty good answers ready are next they attempt to borrow from foreign countries. In the meantime it is thought that a good deal of the money found its way into the pockets of some of the officials, whose one aim is to build, or buy big estates, run motor cars, and keep swarms of so-called soldiers nothing but the lowest type of coolies who carry guns; they (incidentally) do not know how to use.

Through the interest taken by Dr. Wellington Koo, over the Opium Suppression question, backed up by the protests of the British Minister (a Summary of which Dr. Wellington Koo handed to the Cabinet) President Tse Tsao Kai has promised to assist the Cabinet in every way in any action it may take. Several despatches from Marshal Wu Pei-fu show that he also is taking a very keen personal interest in the matter.

SOCIAL.

Madame Wellington Koo and Mrs. Hussey, are leaving Peking for a short trip to Singapore. They will sail on the P. & O. "Kashgar" from Shanghai on February 5, which is Chinese New Year day. Leaving Peking for Home, are Mrs. P. M. Scott and her son. They will also travel on the "Kashgar". Mrs. Scott, who is the wife of the Rev. P. M. Scott, of the Anglican Mission, Peking, has been ill off and on for the past year, and it is hoped she will benefit by the change of climate and rest.

Dr. Kenneth Duncan and Messrs. L. H. Ware and C. O. Levin of the Canton Christian College, have arrived in Peking, and expect to stay here a week. Miss M. S. Purcell and Miss V. Harrell of the Peking Union Medical College left Peking for Canton. Miss M. S. Purcell has been chosen to represent the P.U.M.C. at the (Annual) Nurses' Association of the China Convention which is to be held in Canton. The Peking A.D.S. will play "The Wheel" again as soon as the producer and principal actor, Mr. W. P. Newman returns from Shanghai. It is understood that the proceeds of the performance is to go to the funds for St. Dunstan's. An epidemic of scarlet fever is raging in Peking. A few weeks ago the third son of Baron and Baroness de Sigmund died of this fever, and on Wednesday the youngest son, little Henry also died. Very great sympathy is felt for the parents. This cruel visitation has greatly affected the people of Peking.

CRICKET.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

Rain prevented any matches from being played last week hence the absence of Cricket Notes. This week the holidays have made it necessary for the comment and statistics to appear late. In future the Notes will be published as usual on Wednesdays. Should any league matches have been omitted from the averages and league table, will the respective hon. secretaries kindly oblige?

Congratulations are due to Kowloon for bringing off the double last Saturday to be followed up with a victory in a friendly two-inning match with the junior league leaders. Perhaps the taste of past glories will buck the Peninsula-ites up to greater things in their prospective "derby" with the Hongkong C.C. Cochrane's turning out appreciably strengthened both the batting and bowling of the first eleven while Brawn's inclusion has brought added powers to the junior attack although he has not attained to his batting of fifteen years ago.

Plucky batting by the Navy 2nd XI brought another defeat to the Club junior eleven who made a sporting declaration. Two defeats and four draws without a victory has been the lot of the H.K.C.C. 2nd XI during the last two months, in the second division of the league, and they have dropped to sixth place in the league table. Hagen is the only man who can claim to have a consistent record as he has got into double figures on the nine occasions that he has batted. However, there was the excellent showing by Maas and Blaker who, several seasons ago, turned out regularly for the first eleven.

By compiling 131 not out, Lieut. Harris, R.N., has displaced Major Gandy, R.E., with the biggest league innings to date this season.

He has played in all seven of the team's league matches but beyond a score of 31 made against Civil Service, he has no other big figures to his credit. The victory brings the Navy junior eleven to second place in the league and preserves their unbeaten record. Pomfret's promotion has meant a good deal and if they are to overhaul the Sappers in the race for supremacy the bowling must be more formidable than it was last Saturday.

Close finishes have become the characteristic features of the R.A.M.C. matches. The match in which they beat the "Varsity" seconds again went to show that Captain Walker is the mainstay of the team and that beyond him and one or two others, the batting is very weak.

After promises of fair batting strength, the Pokfulam juniors could not get going on the tricky wicket and were dismissed cheaply. Their bowlers retaliated when the turn came but they were 12 runs too late.

That tail in the batting coupled with bad luck in the field, added another defeat to the record of the second Chinese string. Kowloon's three points have almost definitely relieved the danger of the wooden spoon for which their opponents of last week seem destined.

The only changes in the senior averages are that Bradbury goes down one place and Robinson replaces Lindsell in the batting list.

As Brooksmith (Navy) has not played in half his team's engagements, his name is omitted from the junior batting averages as is A. K. Mackenzie (H.K.C.C.). Brown has now bowled in five matches and his excellent analyses give him first place while Walker moves up to second and Hogg drops to fourth.

BATTING.

FIRST DIVISION.

	No. of	Innings	Runs	High Score	Average
Purcell (N.)	5	72	176	58.66	
Quick (U.)	4	81	171	57.00	
J. S. Currie (L.)	4	87	143	47.66	
Paffard (N.)	5	86	188	47.00	
E. G. Lammert (H.K.)	3	39	46	46.00	
Owen-Hughes (H.K.)	3	61	69	44.50	
More (H.K.)	4	97	177	44.25	
de Rome (C.S.)	4	97	167	41.75	
A.A. Rumjahn (U.)	5	110	198	39.60	
A. el Arculli (I.)	5	34	71	35.50	
Sayer (C.S.)	6	107	209	34.83	
O. Ismail (I.)	7	44	208	34.67	
Balchett (U.)	5	74	134	33.50	
Baker (C.S.)	3	42	63	31.50	
Bradbury (Crig.)	7	41	142	28.40	
A. H. Madar (L.)	7	52	132	26.40	
Witchell (C.S.)	4	58	78	26.00	
S. H. Ismail (L.)	7	50	178	25.29	
Roffey (U.)	4	37	90	22.50	
Robinson (K.)	5	31	89	22.25	
Pearce (H.K.)	3	40	44	22.00	
Nhill (C.S.)	4	27	44	22.00	
Wood (C.S.)	6	45	123	20.50	
Laing (U.)	3	40	40	20.00	

SECOND DIVISION.

Harris (N.)	7	131	197	39.40
H.D. Rumjahn (R.E.)	6	74	299	33.77
Hagen (H.K.)	9	47	218	31.74

NEW CANTON CRISIS.

FRACAS OVER MILITARY BONDS.

OMINOUS REPORT.

BUSINESS STOPPAGE LIKELY.

To-day's Canton day steamer has brought down a report that two men have been killed and three wounded following trouble in a Yau Lan Mun shop over the military insisting that the bonds issued to tide over the New Year financial stringency be accepted as legal tender. The situation is very critical and a general stoppage of business is likely.

Harper (C.S.)	10	60	279	31.00
Gandy (R.E.)	12	108	324	29.45
O. Rumjahn (L.)	9	67	201	28.71
Nash (R.A.M.C.)	8	59	190	27.14
Piercy (H.K.)	8	56	172	24.57
Reid (H.K.)	7	65	147	24.50
D. Rumjahn (L.)	8	50	164	23.43
Simpson (N.)	5	53	108	21.60
Walker (R.A.M.C.)	9	44	194	21.56
Osman (U.)	6	49	128	21.33

BOWLING.

FIRST DIVISION.

	Wickets	Average
E. G. Lammert (H.K.)	19	5.44
Bird (C.S.)	14	6.50
B. D. Evans (C.S.)	12	6.42
Sayer (C.S.)	11	6.73
Bowker (H.K.)	10	7.40
Gould (N.)	9	7.56
Webster (H.K.)	9	8.33
A. el Arculli (L.)	25	8.60
A. H. Madar (L.)	12	9.00
Balchett (U.)	15	9.13
Omar (I.)	16	9.75
More (H.K.)	6	9.83
A. A. Rumjahn (U.)	11	10.17
Quick (U.)	13	10.69
Hargreaves (N.)	13	11.15
Pomfret (N.)	12	11.17
F. M. el Arculli (L.)	7	11.86

SECOND DIVISION.

Brawn (K.)	11	5.00
Walker (R.A.M.C.)	36	7.64
Jacob (R.E.)	40	8.20
Hogg (N.)	19	8.47
Overy (K.)	19	9.05
Percy (R.A.M.C.)	12	9.17
Sara (C.S.)	50	9.36
Laing (U.)	19	9.58
Reid (H.K.)	19	10.32
Sirdar Khan (L.)	20	10.65
Petheram (K.)	24	11.46
A.R.F. Raven (K.)	11	11.55
Hooppell (N.)	11	11.91

LEAGUE TABLE.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	P.
Indian R.C.	7	5	0	2	17
H.K.C.C.	5	4	0	1	13
Civil Service	6	4	1	1	13
University	5	4	1	0	12
Navy	6	3	3	0	9
Kowloon C.C.	7	2	4	1	7
Craigengower	7	1	5	1	4
R.G.A.	7	1	5	1	4
Chinese R.C.	6	0	5	1	1

SECOND DIVISION.

Royal Engineers	13	9	1	3	30
Navy 2nd	7	6	0	1	19
Civil Service 2nd	11	5	4	2	17
University 2nd	11	4	5	2	14
R.A.M.C.	9	4	4	1	13
H.K.C.C. 2nd	11	3	4	4	13
Indians 2nd	10	3	4	3	12
Kowloon 2nd	10	2	6	2	8
Chinese 2nd	10	0	8	2	2

League Records This Season.

Highest Individual Score: 1st division, A. A. Rumjahn (University) 110; 2nd division, Lt. Harris (Navy) 131 not out.

Most wickets in an innings: 1st division, Sayer (Civil Service) 7 wickets for 23 runs in 9.1 overs (1 maiden); Quick (University) 7 wickets for 23 runs in 12 overs (4 maidens); Bird (Civil Service) 7 wickets for 57 runs in 13 overs (4 maidens); Rough (R.G.A.) 7 wickets for 49 runs in 14.1 overs (2 maidens); Gould (Navy) 7 wickets for 16 runs in 6.5 overs and B.D. Evans (Civil Service) 7 wickets for 11 runs in 6.2 overs (2 maidens); 2nd division, Sara (Civil Service) 8 wickets for 35 runs in 11.3 overs and Laing (University) 8 wickets for 25 runs in 15.5 overs (7 maidens).

Biggest Aggregate: 1st division, Sayer (Civil Service) 209; 2nd division, Gandy (R.E.) 324 runs.

Most wickets to date: 1st division, A. el Arculli (Indians) 25; 2nd division, Sara (Civil Service) 50.

Biggest Innings to date: 1st division, H.K.C.C. 221 for 3 (declared against Craigengower); 2nd division, H.K.C.C. 2nd XI 232 against C.R.C. 2nd XI.

Smallest Innings to date: 1st division, R.G.A. 33 against Navy; 2nd division, C.R.C. 32 against R.E. and Kowloon 2nd XI 32 against R.E.

I expected that the United Services would run the Club very closely in the two-day fixture over the holidays. With their first innings lead and the uncertain weather I thought they would win but the determined club batting in the second innings proved otherwise.

Surprise was expressed by some at the composition of the Services team, it being felt that Captain Walker, O. M. S. Jacob, and one or two Royal Surrey players, might have been included with advantage.

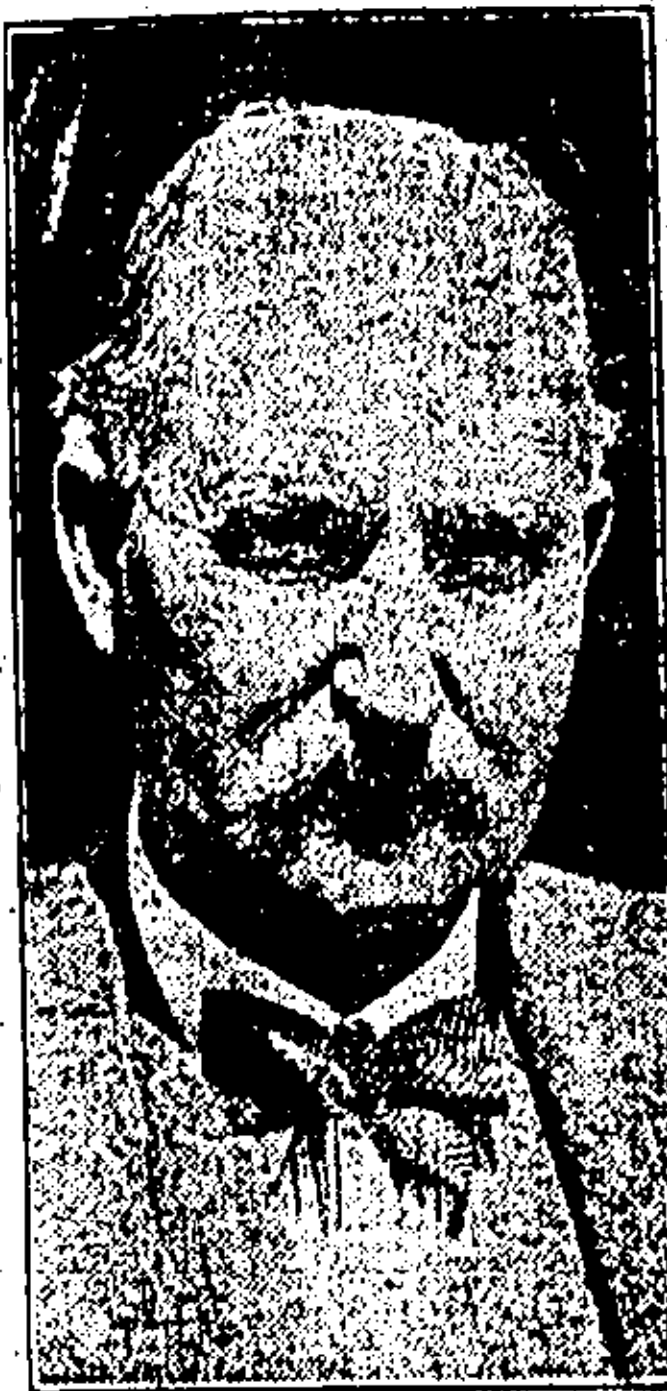
W.P.C.

NAVAL OIL LEASES.

FALL AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE.

(Reuter's American Service.)

WASHINGTON, February 7. In consideration of the fact that Mr. Fall, former Secretary of the Interior, who is alleged to be implicated in the naval oil lease scandal, has refused to answer questions on the ground that to do so might incriminate him, the Senate



committee investigating the oil leases has voted in favour of releasing him from further attendance.

WASHINGTON, February 7. The Senate has passed a resolution directing the Department of the Interior to move for the recovery of the Ellikill naval oil leases held by the Californian Standard Oil Company.

MEXICAN REVOLT.

NEW YORK, February 7. It is authoritatively reported that Huerta's forces have evacuated Puerto Mexico.



Adolfo de la Huerta.

FOOTBALL.

SATURDAY'S TEAMS.

The following will represent the Club Reserves in their 2nd. Division League match with H. M. S. Titania on the Club ground tomorrow, kick-off 2.45 p.m.—S.H. Garrod, H. T. Buxton, J. Lyon, A. Ferguson, E. W. Raiton (Capt.), J. Gardner, A. R. Boll, A. Roberts, W. Stewart, A. Douglas, G. May Reserves.—R. W. Williamson, A. F. Paul.

KOWLOON TEAMS. The following teams have been selected to represent the Kowloon Football Club on Saturday at Kowloon.

1st XI v. H. M. S. "Despatch." Kick-off 4.15 p.m.—Rasmussen; Morton and Knight; Howard, Turner and Pasco; Millard, Mason, Latham, Duncan and Muir. Reserve—Leonard.

2nd XI v. Sacred Heart. Kick-off 3.45 p.m.—Beach; Ollier and Urquhart; A. W. Brown, W. H. Brown and Bandle; Hast, Vickers, Spary, Sibley and Haylock. Reserve—Taylor and Chapman.

NEW YEAR RESULTS. On the Garrison ground at Sookunpo on Wednesday, the Army defeated South China by 2-1. The goal scorers were Boniface and Woodbridge for the Army and Pang Kam-wing for South China.

On Tuesday, the Hongkong F.C. entertained Canton and beat them Howard Scoring the solitary goal.

TANGIER TREATY SIGNED. PARIS, February 8. The Spanish Representatives have signed the Tangier treaty.

\$100,400,000 WAR INDEMNITY.

GERMAN TREATY WITH CHINA.

CONFISCATED PROPERTY PROVISION.

SHANGHAI, February 8.

The North China Daily News reliably learns that Germany and China have concluded an agreement, the essential point of which is that Germany pays China a war indemnity of \$100,400,000 from which is to be deducted the cost of the properties of the Deutsche Asiatic Bank, the Carlewitz Company, the Siemens Company and one or two other firms confiscated during the war.

The net amount payable to China is \$45,000,000, of which \$13,000,000 will be paid in cash at present banked in London. The remainder will be in bonds of the Northern Section of the Tientsin-Pukow Railway, the Hukwang Railway and the 1913 Reorganisation Loans.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

POLITICAL SENSATION.



Britain's War Premier, once more in the world limelight, through his revelations regarding the Peace Conference.

INTERPORT BILLIARDS.

SHANGHAI'S PORTUGUESE TEAM ARRIVES.

The Portuguese billiard team from Shanghai to play the Hongkong Portuguese in the first of an annual interport series have arrived by the Empress of Australia. Six players have come with no reserves. A Corveth accompanies the team as scorer. The players are: Messrs. Campos (Capt.), P. Barradas, G. M. Remedios, J. P. Pereira, G. M. Gomes and E. Leitao. They will play at the Club Lusitano and will be here till the 22nd, when they return north by the same boat.

The following programme has been arranged by the Portuguese community:

SHANGHAI HONGKONG.
P. Barradas v. F. M. Orzorio
Monday at 6 p.m.
G. M. Remedios v. P. A. Yvanovich
Monday at 9 p.m.
J. P. Pereira v. E. Guilmaras
Tuesday at 6 p.m.
A. F. Gomes v. E. D. Roza
Tuesday at 9 p.m.
E. Leitao v. R. Luz
Wednesday at 6 p.m.
J. Campos v. A. J. Osmund
Wednesday at 9 p.m.

THE SOCIAL SIDE. Dance at the Club de Recreio on Saturday, the 9th, at 9 p.m. Dance at the Club Lusitano on Saturday, the 16th, at 9 p.m., when Madame Albuquerque Castro will distribute the prizes.

Dinner at the Club Lusitano on Thursday, the 21st. Dance at the Catholic Union date not yet fixed.

At the dance on Saturday, the 16th, the following prizes will be distributed:

Prize for highest break (Cup presented by Mr. A. B. Silva-Netto, chairman of the Lusitano Billiards Assn.).

Prize for best average (Cup presented by Mr. S. A. Lopes).

Medals for the winning team (presented by Mr. G. A. da Rosa).

The shield, which is presented by the Portuguese Billiard Association, is being ordered from England and has not yet arrived.

OBITUARY.

MRS. T. PETRIE.

It is with much regret that we record the death this morning of Mrs. Petrie, wife of Mr. T. Petrie for many years Editor of The South China Morning Post. Mrs. Petrie was taken ill some time ago and up to a few days ago it was expected that she would recover and be well enough to accompany her husband to England on the 23rd of this month to share with him a well earned retirement. Unfortunately pneumonia set in and gradually Mrs. Petrie weakened, passing away early this morning.

Mr. Petrie's bereavement is particularly sad in view of his impending departure and farewell from the Colony, and the deepest sympathy of all will be extended to him.

The late Mrs. Petrie was well-known in Yokohama and Victoria, British Columbia and met her husband in the Far East.

The last remains will be laid to rest this afternoon, the cortege passing the Monument at 5 o'clock. It is expected that many friends will attend the funeral to pay their last respects and mourn the loss of a lady who will be sadly missed by her many friends.

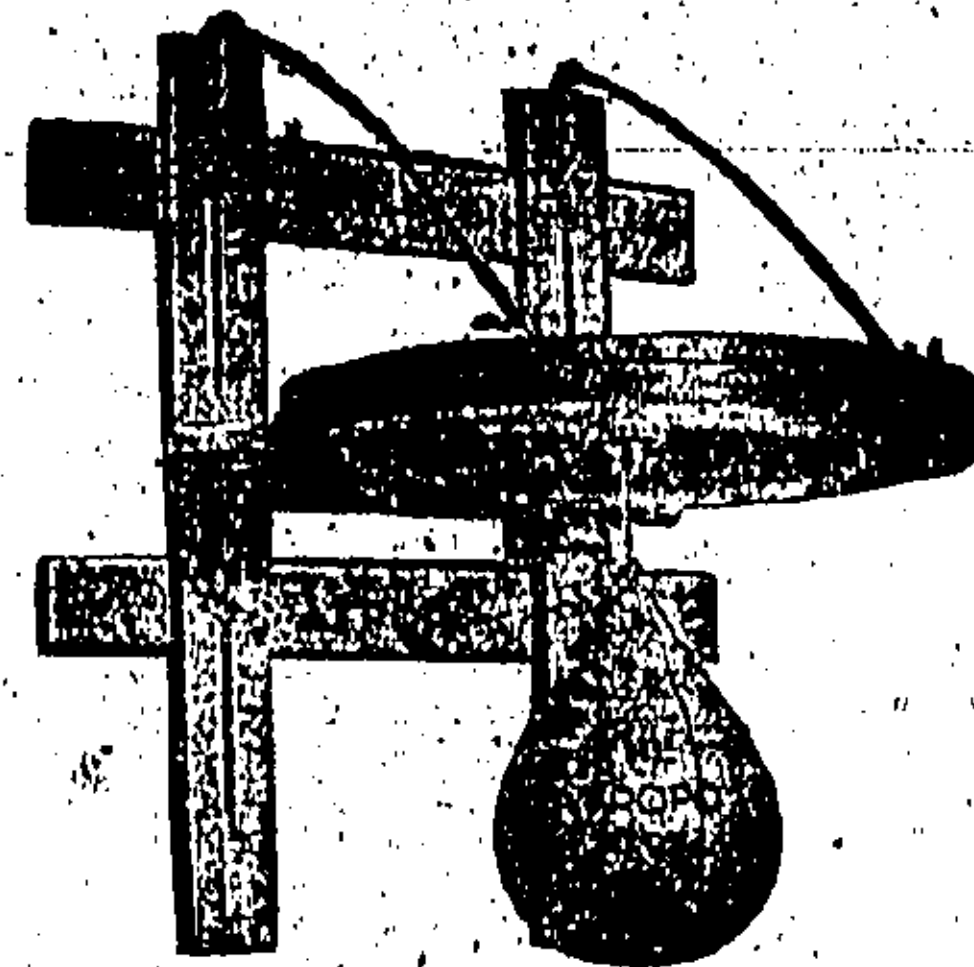
COMPANY REPORT.

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO. LTD.

We are informed that subject to audit the Consulting Committee and the General Managers of the above Company will recommend a Dividend (including the interim dividend of \$1. per share already paid) of \$2. and \$1 per share Bonus absorbing \$180,000.00, put To Reserve Fund \$10,000.00 To Bonus to staff \$246.00 To Pay a Final Dividend of \$1. per share 60,000.00 To Pay a Bonus of \$1. per share 60,000.00 And carry forward 4341.29

PUNCH BAG PLATFORMS

AND ALL ACCESSORIES.



SWIVELS—MITTS—BLADDERS.

PHONE 4587

LANE, CRAWFORD, LTD.

COMPLETE SPORTS OUTFITTERS.

ENGLISH RECORDS

(NEW-PROCESS)

HAROLD WILLIAMS and Male Quartette.

SONGS OF THE FLEET.

949 No. 1.—Sailing at Dawn
No. 2.—The Song of the Sea
950 No. 3.—The Middle Watch. (In Two Parts)
951 No. 4.—The Little Admiral; No. 5.—Farewell

Songs from "THE GONDOLIERS"

THE GONDOLIERS:

3375 There Lived a King Harold Williams, Baritone
In Enterprise of Martial Kind Eric Courtland, Tenor
3383 Take a Pair of sparkling Eyes Harold Williams, Baritone
No Possible Doubt Whatever Harold Williams, Baritone

DORA LABBETTE,

Soprano (With Piano)
D1406 A BROWN BIRD SINGING (Haydn Wood)
EVENSONG (Fold Your Wings, Dear Angels) (Lara Lehman)

AT

ANDERSON'S.

Everything that your BABY needs that a good Drug Store ought to have you will find in our store.

QUALITY GUARANTEED—TRY US.

THE CHINA DISPENSARY.

82, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LTD.

BEST PORTLAND CEMENT

SHEWAN TOMES & Co.,

General Managers.

HONGKONG.

DYE KEN JOHN

THE ORIGINAL

HAIG?



JOHN HAIG & CO., LTD.

Distillers Marischal Scotland

Sole Agents

GANDE PRIORE & CO., LTD.

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HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMERS

JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMSHIP CO., LTD. AND THE CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

HONGKONG-CANTON LINE

Sailings: To Canton daily at 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. (Sundays 10 p.m. only)
From Canton daily at 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. (Sundays 5 p.m. only)SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.
HONGKONG-MACAO LINESailings to Macao: Daily at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. (SUNDAYS 8 a.m. only).
Sailings from Macao: Daily at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. (SUNDAYS 3 p.m. only).

Further information may be obtained at the Company's Office, 41 Des Voeux Road Central, Messrs. Tines, Cook & Son, or the American Express Company, Hongkong.

DODWELL & COMPANY, LTD.
NEW YORK BERTH

FOR NEW YORK AND BOSTON VIA SUEZ.

S.S. "WRAV CASTLE"Sailing on or about 8th Feb.

LLOYD TRIESTINO

TAKING CARGO FOR GENOA, NAPLES, VENICE, TRIESTE AND ALL ITALIAN PORTS
ALSO CARGO ON THROUGH BILLS OF LADING FOR
LEVANT, BLACK SEA & DANUBE PORTSFUMES having been re-opened for traffic, cargo is also accepted for this port on through bills of lading.
VESSELS HAVE ACCOMMODATION FOR SALOON PASSENGERS
REDUCED FARE FROM HONGKONG TO ITALIAN PORTS 25%
FOR SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA AND KOBE.

FOR BRINDISI, VENICE, AND TRIESTE.

VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG AND COLOMBO.

S.S. "PERIA"Sailing on or about 12th Feb.
S.S. "ROSANDRA"Sailing on or about 8th Mar.

* This Steamer has been specially chartered to facilitate the forwarding of cargo intended for the reconstruction of the devastated areas in Japan.

NATAL LINE OF STEAMERS

FROM CALCUTTA & COLOMBO TO
SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS."UMVOLOSI"Sailing from Calcutta on or about 7th February
Regular Passenger and Cargo Service to South African Ports.
Through Bills of Lading issued from Hongkong.

For Freight or Passage on any of the above Lines apply to:-

DODWELL & CO., LTD., Agents.

Telephone Central 1030.

O. S. K.

SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG SUBJECT TO ALTERATION

LONDON, HAMBURG, ROTTERDAM & ANTWERP-Via Singapore, Colombo, Hong Kong, and Port Said.
COLUMBIA MARUSaturday, 9th February.
RIO DE JANEIRO, SANTO SPIRITO, ALBA-Via Saigon, Singapore, Colombo, Durrban & Capetown.
SEA CATTLE MARUSaturday, 9th Feb.BOMBAY-Via Singapore and Colombo. Wednesday, 20th Feb.
ARGON MARUSunday, 2nd March.
SUMATRA MARUThursday, 6th March.SAIGON, HANGKOW & SHANGHAI. Monday, 3rd March.
CALCUTTA-Via Singapore and Hongkong. Wednesday, 13th February.VICTORIA, SEATTLE & VANCOUVER-Via Shanghai and Japan Ports.
ARIZONA MARUMonday, 18th Feb.NEW YORK-Via Japan ports, San Francisco and Panama.
ALASKA MARUEnd of FebruaryJAPAN PORTS-Via Yokohama, Osaka, Yokohama and Nagoya.
LONDON MARUSunday, 24th Feb.KEELUNG, SWATOW & AMOY.
SAIKO MARUSunday, 10th Feb. at 11 a.m.

AMAKU MARUSunday, 17th Feb. at 11 a.m.

TAKAO & KEELUNG.
"BUSHI" MARUSaturday, 16th February.

For further particulars please apply to: OSAKA SHOSHEN KAISHA, K. SHIMA, Manager.

BOSTON & NEW YORK

JOINT SERVICE OF THE

"BLUE FUNNEL" LINE

OCEAN S.S. CO., LD. & CHINA MUTUAL S.S. CO., LD.

AMERICAN & MANCHURIAN LINE

(FULLER & BUCKNALL S.S. CO., LD.)

SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

S.S. "BURYBATES"via Suez Canal16th Feb.
S.S. "TILIX"via Suez Canal1st Feb.S.S. "KABINGA"via Suez Canal2nd Mar.
S.S. "CITY OF MANILA"via Suez Canal11th Mar.Steamers proceed via Suez Canal or Panama Canal at Owners' Option.
Subject to change without notice.For freight and particulars apply to:
SCOTTERVILLE & SWIRE, OF THE BANK LINE, LD., HONGKONG.

HONGKONG & CANTON. HOLYOAK MASSEY & CO., LTD., CLYTON

THE EAST ASIATIC CO., LTD.
COPENHAGEN.

Regular Freight and Passenger Service for Bangkok, Hongkong and return.

Will leave for Bangkok on or about 12th February

S/S "SINTAMO" (2,775 tons) in port

S/S "BANKA" (1,645 tons) Expected on or about 12th February

Subject to change without notice.

For further particulars please apply to:
JOHN MANNERS & CO., LTD.

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS & PASSENGERS

SWATOW

Feb. 9.-C.N. Kiangchow.
10.-O.S.N. Kiangchow.
11.-O.S.N. Kiangchow.
12.-O.S.N. Kiangchow.
13.-O.S.N. Kiangchow.
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15.-O.S.N. Kiangchow.
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17.-O.S.N. Kiangchow.Feb. 9.-C.N. Kiangchow.
10.-O.S.N. Kiangchow.
11.-O.S.N. Kiangchow.
12.-O.S.N. Kiangchow.
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14.-O.S.N. Kiangchow.
15.-O.S.N. Kiangchow.
16.-O.S.N. Kiangchow.
17.-O.S.N. Kiangchow.Feb. 12.-D.L. Haiching.
13.-D.L. Haiching.
14.-D.L. Haiching.
15.-D.L. Haiching.
16.-D.L. Haiching.
17.-D.L. Haiching.Feb. 8.-P.O. Naldora.
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15.-O.N. Kiangchow.You'll Never Forget
MRS. WALLACE REID
in
HUMAN WRECKAGEFeb. 9.-C.N. Kiangchow.
10.-O.S.N. Kiangchow.
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2.-D.L. Haiching.
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5.-D.L. Haiching.
6.-D.L. Haiching.
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9.-D.L. Haiching.May 16.-P.O. Naldora.
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21.-P.O. Naldora.Feb. 11.-B.F. Antiochus.
12.-B.F. Antiochus.
13.-B.F. Antiochus.
14.-B.F. Antiochus.
15.-B.F. Antiochus.
16.-B.F. Antiochus.
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MILITARY LANDS TRANSFER.

ARBITRATOR'S AWARD EXPLAINED. STATEMENT BY MR. FLETCHER.

QUESTION LENGTHILY REVIEWED.

In the Legislative Council yesterday afternoon the Acting Colonial Secretary (Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher C.M.G.) made an important explanatory statement in connection with the handing back to the Colony of what are known as the "military lands."

In the absence of His Excellency the Governor the Council, which otherwise represented a full attendance, was presided over by the Officer Administering the Government (the Hon. Sir Claude Severn K.B.E., C.M.G.).

The Colonial Secretary said:—Before moving the resolution which stands in my name, I must state that it is not proposed to ask honorable members to vote upon it to-day. I propose to make a statement explanatory of it, and if any members should care to ask questions arising out of that statement, then the Council can go into Committee for the purpose of those questions. I beg, Sir, to move this resolution:

"Resolved that this Government approves the acceptance of the award of Sir John Lubbock Oakley, dated the second day of November, 1923, in respect of certain lands situated in the Colony of Hong Kong now vested in the Army Council, as set out in Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1924, and recommends that steps be taken to give effect to it as soon as possible."

Principles Underlying Tenure

It may perhaps be clear to the ground for an understanding of this complicated question if I begin by explaining the principles underlying the tenure of military lands, and transactions in these lands. The policy of the Imperial Government is laid down in what is known as the Military Lands Circular despatches of 1860 and 1864, the rulings most immediately in point being the following:—On account of the changing conditions of warfare, it is not infrequently occurs that Colonial lands and buildings set apart for military purposes cease to be necessary or suitable to their purpose, while, at the same time, or subsequently, other lands and buildings have to be acquired to meet the necessities of the garrison.

It is further considered that all such military properties and their values should be treated as part of a capital sum devoted to defensive purposes, and that their realizable or estimated values should, as hereinafter detailed, be retained by the Colonial Government, and be held by them available towards the provision of such other lands and buildings as it may be subsequently necessary to secure for defensive purposes.

With a view of removing any misunderstanding, Her Majesty's Government have thought it desirable to formulate their proposals in the following terms:—

The free surrender to the Colony of all Colonial military lands and buildings no longer required by H. M. Government on the engagement by the Colony that in the event of the lands and buildings being required then or in the future for the defence of the Colony the Colony shall provide the same.

towards the satisfaction of the above mentioned requirements, and to that end the value of the lands and buildings surrendered shall be ascertained and recorded, and any lands and buildings provided out of that value shall be held by H. M. Government on the same tenure as those surrendered.

Permanent Defensive Fund.

This proposal is based on the assumption that the Colonial military lands in question constitute a permanent Defensive Fund of the Colony, the integrity of which should be preserved, in kind or value, even though the original lands themselves may be diverted to other purposes. Accordingly, whenever any of such lands which have been set apart for defensive purposes have from change of circumstances ceased to answer the purpose for which they were set apart, and are in consequence surrendered by the military authorities, their value should be treated as forming a capital applicable, either immediately or from time to time, so far as it will extend, to providing other lands or buildings which may be required in the Colony for such purposes.

"Valuation of lands or buildings, when required under the circumstances above mentioned, should be made by the Colonial and military authorities conjointly, or in the event of their disagreeing, by an independent and competent surveyor to be chosen by agreement between the Hon. and Colonial Governments whose report should be final."

There is this liability in respect of military lands, and there is the further obligation on the Colony to provide 20 per cent of its revenue under the Defence Contribution Ordinance, 1901, paragraph 5 of which reads:—

"The said percentage shall be deemed to be a fixed contribution payable by the Colony in full return for the annual cost of the Imperial garrison, including all capital expenditure required for military lands and buildings and the cost of maintenance of all military works and buildings, and the cost of lodging in lieu of barracks and of other military charges and of other military charges whatsoever, provided that in any year the sum paid by the way of percentage exceeds the cost of the garrison for that year."

Much friction was the subject of constant friction and dispute over a period of many years, until the subject was finally settled in 1923.

1905 by what is known as the Lewis agreement. Since that date the rights of the military over their land, their reserves and their encroachments have been absolutely defined, and it must be accepted as a postulate of the present argument that these rights are absolute, and that they must be bought at the existing market value. This demand for the removal of the garrison from its present positions comes, not from the military authorities, but from the Colony. The reasons are so obvious that it is unnecessary for me to refer to them at any length. These large self-contained areas block the normal development of the Colony and they isolate large business districts one from another. The Army Council has expressed itself as willing to sell at a price, and it is now for us to consider whether it is worth our while to pay that price.

Previous Agreement.

As to the price. In the winter and early spring of 1922, Mr. Perkins and myself, representing this Government, and Colonel Davy, representing the local military authorities, negotiated an agreement, signed finally on March 31, 1922, which was endorsed by their Excellencies the Governor and General Officer Commanding, and was forwarded to the Imperial Government for approval. Certain correspondence ensued with the War Office, and in the meantime the prices of land rose very rapidly. The boom had set in, in full force. The War Office decided to investigate the matter itself upon the spot, and in September, 1923, they sent out Sir John Oakley. On his arrival the Government decided to invite him to act as arbitrator, with this limitation, that while his figures would not be questioned, yet the Government of the Colony must reserve the right to reject them in toto. I think that this was a wise decision, because Sir John Oakley as arbitrator must necessarily be in a more independent position than as valuer for one side only; and as the War Department were in a position that they did not care whether they sold or not they were sure to stand by his figures. I may here express the opinion that the Colony has been very fortunate in getting an arbitrator of the calibre of Sir John Oakley. I think that opinion will be endorsed by those who came in contact with him.

Witnesses Heard.

As both the Government of the Colony and the local military authorities were in agreement, it was decided not to call separate witnesses for either side. The names of prominent business men and valuers were put before Sir John Oakley, and he called those whom he wished. The gentlemen who gave evidence were the Hon. Mr. A. G. Stephen, the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, the Hon. Mr. Chow Shou-on, the Hon. Mr. R. H. Kotewall, Mr. Bernard Mr. Henry Humphreys, Mr. L. G. Bird and Mr. Gibbs. A number of officers in the Public Works Department were also called. The Government prepared elaborate plans showing the position of all lands sold at public auctions during the last 14 years in all parts of the Colony, giving the upset price, the realized price and the rate of Crown rent; and also plans showing all private sales, between private parties, of land within reasonable distance of these large military areas. Sir John Oakley visited, in company with Colonel Davy and myself, a very large number of these sites in person.

A Special Account.

In order to understand the exact position with regard to these values, it is necessary to explain the agreement which is to be come to between this Government and the War Department. A

special account is to be opened to the credit side of which is to be put the sum of \$114,000, representing military contributions overpaid by the Colony in 1917-18, 1918-19. There will be further put to that credit side the value of military lands which will be sold to the military for the purpose of re-provisioning. That value will not be great, because the lands are situated some distance from the centre of the Colony. On the debit side will be set this sum of approximately \$7,000,000 representing the purchase price of these military lands. That price, of course, includes the full value for any land which may be used for a public purpose. For example, there is a proposal that a new City Hall may be built on Murray parade ground.

The Public Works Department will proceed as soon as may be to re-provision the garrison by forming sites and putting up any buildings that they require. The first situation which they will begin to deal with is Gun Club Hill, which is already military land. There will be no payment there in respect of the land.

Gun Club Hill.

It has been argued by some that by putting the British battalion in that position we shall simply be repeating the mistakes of the past. I do not think that can be the case. We have a 100-foot road on both sides of Gun Club Hill—Gascogne Road on the northern boundary and a 100-foot road across the southern boundary. In any event the military authorities would not wish to go further afield, and the British garrison are as much entitled as anybody else to the amenities of existence here. The second site which is under consideration—and I think will probably be chosen—is the ridge beyond Standard Oil holding at Laichikok, which goes to the

crown of the road down to the torpedo pier belonging to the Navy. I think hon. members know it: there is a small house at its southern extremity. The proposal is that we should level that hill, fill in the valley and construct a large cantonment. These works will necessarily take a long time. It has been suggested that the Gun Club Hill barracks may be completed in three years, and the cantonment in five years. I think, personally, this is too optimistic a view. In any event we have to put our money for these new works over a period of years, which may be five and will not probably in any event be more than ten. We cannot get any large area of land from the military authorities until the Garrison has been re-provisioned. When the British battalion goes to Gun Club Hill, we hope to get the greater part of the land on this side. Therefore, it will be seen that interest on our money plays a most important part in this matter. Our money is going out for a definite period and we can only recover it by use of these military lands after some indefinite future period. These values of Sir John Oakley are for the lands in bulk.

Necessary Expenditure.

The Town Planning Committee in its most intensive lay-outs puts aside 45 per cent of the gross area for road purposes. In the Praya East reclamation the area given to roads is 42 per cent, not including the present Praya East which will not include the roads which will be built across the land by private parties dwelling there. Therefore, in reckoning the amount of money you are going to get back from these military lands, you have to contemplate them very largely decreased in size. In addition, you have to form these roads, provide drainage, water and light, all matters of considerable expenditure.

The proposition now is: What is the value of these military lands under these conditions, namely, that we prepare for the next two years to pay out up to \$17,000,000, and after a period of three years we begin to receive these military lands, reduce them very largely, anyway up to 45 per cent in size, by road-making, spend a considerable sum in laying them out and

then sell them for what they will fetch? I will put some figures before hon. members in this connection. I think some of them have heard of selling forward for March. Well, this operation is something of the same nature. A syndicate of well-known business men in January, 1923, bought a local property for \$350,000, subject to a five years' lease. In January, 1924, they paid \$200,000 more to be released from that five years' lease. I am not putting forward the figures as absolutely accurate, but simply roughly for the purposes of argument. They were prepared to pay \$550,000 for immediate possession of the land, for which they would pay \$350,000 for possession in five years. That is a proportion of seven to eleven.

Site Values.

Now, we will take Murray barracks on the same principle. The sum awarded by Sir John Oakley is \$22 a foot. Take off 40 per cent, and, I think, at least that might come off—for roads, the value works out at \$34.50 a foot. Well, on this same argument of the future value, if we sell that in four years' time the value we must get is \$57.50 a foot for that land when prepared for building. Or I will take some figures of actual sales which were put before Sir John Oakley. In 1919 the Government bought Beaconsfield Arcade and the buildings upon it for \$20.52 a foot. In 1920 the site where the Club Lusitano now stands was bought for \$24.97 a foot. At the end of 1921 the old Post Office site was sold for \$35.09 a foot, that is exclusive of roads. In April, 1923, Wiseman's site was sold for \$49 a foot.

(Continued on page 9.)

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O. B. BROWN, Secretary. Hongkong, February 8, 1924.

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LINSTEAD & DAVIS, Treasurers. Hongkong, February 9, 1924.

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

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CONTENTS.

PAGE	PAGE
Domestic Occurrences.....1	Arking Questions.....19
Leading Articles.....1-7	Colony's Health.....20
Grassome Murder.....7	Motor Accidents.....20
Local and General.....7-8	Fatal Accidents.....20
Social and Personal.....8	Biot in the Diet.....20
New Year Wedding.....8	Shroff done!.....21
Cement Company, Extension.....9-11	Commercial Notes.....21-22
Company Meeting.....11	Cruiser Squadron.....22
This Wicked City.....11	Bargains Aplenty!.....23
Correspondence.....12-18	Weather Vagaries.....23
S.P.C.A.....13	Armed Robbers.....23
Our Military Lads.....13	"Tallies" Piracy.....24-26
Amoy News.....14	Sport.....26
Government House.....14	Yachting.....26-27
Ominous Undertone.....15	Our Town.....27
Steamboat Co.....15	Shipping Dangers.....27
Poison Death.....16	Pirate Zone.....27
Civil Spirit.....16-17	Hongkong's Governor.....27
The Inter Men.....17	Marine Misdoings.....27
Bang! Bang!.....17	Opium in Bilge.....27
"Syria" Arrives.....17	Street Thieves.....27
St. Paul's Institution.....18	Knocked Down.....27
Educational Institute.....18	China Coast.....27-28
Limericks.....18	Passengers.....28
Holiday Accidents.....18	Exchange.....28
Blaze at Mongkok.....18	Local Slave Market.....28
Camera Notes.....19	More Armed Robberies.....29
The Theatre.....19	Facts and Figures.....29

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MILITARY LANDS
TRANSFER.

(Continued from page 8.)

Take the old Post Office site of \$36.09 a foot. Now the present value, at 7 per cent, if it was to be sold at that rate after five years, would be \$25.75 a foot. The present value of the old Post Office site, if it is to be realised in ten years, would be \$18.34 a foot. Take Murray Parade ground on the same principle. Taking that \$22 a foot, the price given, taking off for roads, the value, as I have said, is \$34.50 a foot. Take off the half dollar to allow for Crown rent, which will be remitted for the land, that leaves a value of \$34 a foot. If we are out of our money for five years we must get \$47.66 a foot for it. If we are out of our money for ten years we must get \$66.91 a foot for that area. Our \$17,000,000 will not, of course, be spent at once. It will be distributed, as I have shown, over a considerable period of years; but at the same time, it must necessarily take us a very long period to get back that money which we put out. In the 20 years, 1901-1920 inclusive, we got altogether five and a half million dollars from land sales. How long will it take us to get back \$17,000,000 from the sales of these military lands apart from the ordinary land sales of the Colony? I will read extracts from a statement of the Government's case which was put before the arbitrator.

The Government's Case.
Evidence has been called as to the probable period which must elapse before the whole of the land surrendered can be disposed of by sale or otherwise. It has been shown that in the years 1901-1902 inclusive there were no great fluctuations in the sums received from land sales, which totalled in the twenty years approximately \$5,500,000. It has been shown that in the years 1921 and 1922 and the first nine months of 1923 the receipts from land sales approximated to a total of \$7,000,000. The Government submits that, when the demand of the present boom is satisfied, there is no ground for supposing that receipts from land sales during the following twenty years will be appreciably greater than the receipts during the years 1901-1920.

"Sales during the years after the Military lands are ready for the market will not be confined to those lands, but will, as heretofore, be spread over areas in all parts of the Colony. A proportion only of the proceeds, namely that part of the money which is received from the sale of the Military lands, will be available for re-imbursement of the Colony in respect of the cash paid out for Military re-provisioning."

Marketing the Land.

"If, when the land is ready for sale, the Government places any large quantity upon the market at such rates as it will fetch, there will be a general slump in land values which will upset all calculations based upon the past records of land sales; which records could not therefore form any criterion as to the values which would be received for the lands in the circumstances suggested. If, on the other hand the Military lands are offered at the prices then prevailing, in respect of similar property, the Government contends that all past experience goes to prove that the land will be taken up very slowly and that very many years must elapse before it can possibly recover from sales of the Military lands the money, with interest, which it shall have laid out in Military re-provisioning. Expensive Crown land has never found a ready market in normal times. The Old Post Office site was on the market for a number of years, and it did not find a buyer until late in 1921. In 1910 the Government proposed to put the Cenotaph site up to auction as a marine lot at \$30 a foot. The prospective purchaser would not bid at this rate, and it was decided that \$25 would be a sufficient upset price. The prospective purchaser's agent was uncertain whether he would bid at this reduced rate, and the matter was allowed to drop. There has been very little demand for vacant Crown land at Kowloon Point, which has been unoccupied for many years."

Other Land.

"Before the Military lands can be ready for the market, very large areas of new building land along the Eastern Fringe and to the north of the Kowloon Peninsula will be available. Any estimate of the value that should be fixed upon the Military lands depends mainly upon the opinion which is formed regarding the future course of events in the Colony. Past history shows a record of steady and continuous progress, with temporary booms and reactions, and no argument has been advanced to show that future progress will not be along similar lines. It is possible to estimate with approximate accuracy both the period of time over which the Colony will be discharging money and also the period of time within which the Military lands will be handed over; but it is hardly possible to gauge with any pre-

dict at certainty the number of years which will elapse before the Colony, by re-sale of the lands, will finally recover its money, with interest. That the period will be a long one is certain. On the evidence of past history, which is the only definite evidence available, the period will cover so very many years that interest upon the Colony's disbursements becomes a predominating factor most materially affecting the rates which are now fixed as representing the ultimate cash return from the Military lands."

Matter of Guesswork.

The agreement arrived at locally does not differ much from that of Sir John Oakley's figures, except as regards Murray Parade ground. Murray barracks and the small areas fronting on Queen's Road, a large part of which small areas will be wiped out by the widening of Queen's Road to 100 feet. The difference in the two rates for Murray Parade ground and Murray barracks was very large. Your optimism might not doubt tell us that we shall easily get our money back. That is a matter of opinion, and it is most difficult to make any definite statement. The inhabitants of a few years back would regard as incredible the present day prices. It is merely a matter of guesswork what the future has in store for us. I submit, however, it is of immense indirect benefit to the Colony that we should get possession of these military lands in order that we may get proper through communications and develop the Colony on its natural lines. It is perhaps fortunate that these lands have been held so long, as it were, in trust by the military authorities, so that at the present time we have learned from the severe lesson of the mistakes of the past and are ready to lay them out for the development of the Colony on the most up-to-date lines. The Government confidently recommends to this Council and to the Colony the adoption of the resolution before us to-day.

"Before I sit down I wish to express the great obligation the Colony is under to His Excellency the General Officer Commanding and Colonel Davy, for their invaluable co-operation in bringing these difficult negotiations to what I might hope to be regarded a successful conclusion. (Applause.)"

The Attorney General: I beg to second the resolution.

Questions in Committee.
The Hon. Mr. Pollock: I understand that if this Council goes into Committee, unofficial members might be allowed to put a few questions. A number of questions have occurred to me and I will now formally move that the Council go into Committee.

Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak seconded.

In Committee, the Hon. Mr. Pollock said: My first question relates to the plan of the military lands. I should like to know whether the plan was that sent for the consideration of unofficial members?

The Colonial Secretary: Yes. Hon. Mr. Pollock: The next question I want to ask is what, approximately, will be the cost of re-provisioning?

The Colonial Secretary: It is rather difficult to say. The Government's estimate is that it will be less than this sum of \$17,000,000. We have on the one side the \$114,000, and also the credit of this land beyond Leichok; setting against this the 17 million dollars owing, that leaves a debit balance of about 15 million dollars. The total cost of re-provisioning will be less than that sum. I ought also to mention that it was partly arranged with the War Office that we re-provision fully whatever the cost may be. If we do not use the whole of the debit balance on this re-provisioning the military authorities will call upon us for the remainder of that balance for future works.

Finding the Money.

The Hon. Mr. Pollock: I should like to ask if the 15 million dollars will have to be paid out of current revenue?

The Colonial Secretary: We have reserves to a very large amount.

Hon. Mr. Pollock: Is it then proposed to re-provision out of our reserves?

The Colonial Secretary: It is not a matter for putting up any very large sum at once. Payment will go on of course, as buildings progress, and will no doubt, be put before the Council in due course. We have cash in hand.

Hon. Mr. Pollock: Yes, we have cash in hand. The point I want particularly to emphasise is that I understand that it will not be a book entry. We shall have to find the money somehow. Another point is, can the Colonial Secretary give us the figures relating to the Murray Parade Ground; Murray Barracks and the land across Queen's Road. In the agreement of March, 1922, were they considerably less than the figures now put before us? Could the Colonial Secretary give us these figures?

The Colonial Secretary: I will send them to you.

Hon. Mr. Pollock: Then, Sir, another question is, what were the totals for the land sales of 1921, 1922 and 1923 respectively?

The Colonial Secretary: For 1921, 1922, and the first nine months of 1923 they were seven million dollars. That is up to the million of Sir John Oakley's arbitration.

Hon. Mr. Pollock: Then does the cost of re-provisioning include the cost of laying-out?

The Colonial Secretary: Yes. The definition of re-provisioning is: "Reprovisioning connotes the placing of the troops in a position in no way less advantageous than their present position as regards, primarily strategic needs, and also houses, communication, water, light, recreation and general amenities."

Laying Out the Land.

Hon. Mr. Pollock: I suppose the military authorities—assuming we support this resolution, and it is carried—will allow the Public Works staff of the Colony full liberty to survey this land so that the Public Works Department may be in a position to advise the Government in regard to putting up the land for sale.

H.E. the Officer Administering the Government: You do not mean surveying; you are referring to the laying-out. Undoubtedly the military will grant all facilities. When the resolution has been passed, it will be the first thing to consider.

Hon. Mr. Pollock: I mean, Sir, that I suppose the lay out could be made almost immediately, and there will be no necessity to wait until the military have removed.

H.E. the Officer Administering the Government: Quite.

Hon. Mr. Pollock: I should now like to ask whether, in the event of this resolution being accepted, the Government will consider the question of bringing out considerable staffs in sufficient time for them to deal with this very considerable quantity of land which will then be at the disposal of the Government. In this way a certain amount of interest would be saved.

H.E. the Officer Administering the Government: We are preparing.

The Colonial Secretary: There is one point which occurs to me, though it does not arise directly out of the hon. member's question. Various persons have asked me why there is no separate charge in this valuation for buildings. The reason is that the land, with for example, Murray Barracks on it, is less valuable than with the Barracks removed. The cost of removal is about equal to the cost of the building. In the case of a building such as a hospital, however, if we were to take it over and use it, we should have to pay for the land and the building separately.

The 1922 "Agreement"

Hon. Mr. Pollock: Could the Colonial Secretary tell us whether Sir John Oakley, in making his award, took into consideration the question of the interest of the Colony would lose by not having possession of this land for many years.

The Colonial Secretary: It was put before him in an elaborate series of figures.

H.E. the General Officer Commanding: Mention has been made of an agreement of 1922. That agreement was not really an agreement. It was a recommendation from the military authorities here to the War Office to accept as a basis of negotiation certain figures agreed on for valuation, and also the question of how much percentage should be added to that old valuation to be acceptable. There was no actual agreement drawn up. I would like to make that point clear.

The Hon. Mr. Pollock: I would like to ask for an adjournment for a week. My unofficial colleagues will meet me at 12 o'clock on Monday next, and by Thursday we shall be in a position to lay our views before the Council.

H.E. the Officer Administering the Government: The discussion on the resolution will continue at the next meeting of the Council, which will be on Thursday next. The Council stands adjourned.

A DRAMATIC LETTER.

EX-CONVICT'S FLIGHT AND BATTLE TO LIVE.

"I am weary, and resent with blazing fury the lot that has been imposed on me—the burden of carrying the guilt of others; so I have made up my mind to quit. Jesus Christ bore his cross for seven hours, I have carried mine alone for more than seven years, and now, with the salt tears and sweat of despair upon my face, I throw it down."

"These are not lines culled from a drama, but are contained in a letter addressed to the Sydney City Coroner, and received recently. The letter is signed 'Grant Madison Hervey,' and was written from 'Bank Chambers, Goulburn Street, Sydney.' I am tired of being the scapegoat of this fraudulent conspiracy against the rights of men, women, and children, mis-called a civilization," the letter stated.

"I am weary of and resent with blazing fury, this lot that has been imposed on me. I am depressed, made ill in body and soul by the spectacle of an epoch so rotten and so utterly soulless as to deny a

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decent man a chance to make good.

and therefore I have made up my mind to quit. Seven years ago I was unjustly sent to prison in another man's stead in one of the cruellest cases of deliberate, organised perjury which the law courts of New South Wales have ever seen. I was wrongfully convicted on a charge of having forged and uttered a telegram. The actual forger and utterer were, I declare upon my solemn oath, the two principal witnesses for the Crown, but I went to jail, and not they. I went there in 1915, chained to a Chinaman and Russian Finns. In prison I behaved like a man, and never lost a single good conduct mark, and when I came out again in 1918 I believed the world would be willing to extend to me its kindly toleration, if not a helping hand. I was soon undecieved. No matter what I have tried to do it has been smashed up, attacked, or misrepresented by some inhuman band."

Grant Madison Hervey, domain orator, journalist, and publicity agent, walked into the Central Police Station on November 29 and approached the sergeant in charge of the station. "I want you to take me into custody," he remarked. "As I might kill myself and somebody else." He was in an excited state, and the sergeant realised that it was necessary to be careful with him. "Do not do anything rash. I shall do what I can for you," added the policeman, who telephoned to police headquarters. The matter of sending Hervey to the reception house was discussed, but it was decided to wait till later before deciding whether or not to do so.

"OUTWARD BOUND."

WOMAN'S SUICIDE AFTER SEEING PLAY.

Suggestions that a woman's suicide was the result of seeing a play were made at a Paddington inquest on Mrs. Mary Johanna Elizabeth Walker, 20, a Dutch shorthand-writer, of Talbot-road, Paddington, W., who was found dead in a gas-filled room in her house.

It was stated that on the day before her death she attended a matinee of the play "Outward Bound."

Mr. J. T. Grein, the dramatic critic, who had occasionally employed her, said that in his opinion Mrs. Walker was a woman who would be much affected by such a play. It was an exalted allegory, an attempt to picture what happened to human beings after they died. Two of the characters were persons who were supposed to have committed suicide by gas poisoning.

The Coroner (Mr. A. D. Corbourn): Does this play hold up suicide as a wrong thing?

Mr. Grein: Yes, it is calculated to convey a deterrent impression, for it tells there is no immediate mercy for suicides. They are not allowed to appear before the Great Examiner. They are compelled to travel back and forth between the world and the hereafter until one day they have to take up again their earthly existence.

The Coroner said that after hearing what Mr. Grein said it seemed desirable that he and the jury should attend a performance of the play.

Edwin Walker, a jeweller's salesman, the husband, said he could not suggest any reason why his wife should take her life. She returned from visiting some relatives in Holland rather depressed.

A verdict of Suicide while of Unsound Mind was returned.

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Varsity Cricket.

PRESENT DEFEAT PAST.

The following are the scores of the University Past XI. versus the University Present XI. played on the Wednesday at Pokfulam on the first innings—

Past—1st Innings.					
A. H. Rumjahn, c Balbetchet, b Yeow	18				
N. Sze-kwong, b Shabuddin	4				
C. Choe, c Ponsoby Fane, b Rumjahn	12				
W. Gittins, b Yeow	0				
H. C. Hung, c Shabuddin, b Rumjahn	34				
Wei Wing-lok, b Rumjahn	16				
Yew Man-tsun, c Osman, b Yeow	21				
W. Hall, b Yeow	5				
A. J. Kew, not out	3				
J. M. Jack, b Yeow	0				
H. E. Sir Claud Severn, b Osman	1				
Extras	13				
Total	126				

Bowling Analysis.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Balbetchet	9	3	17	0
Shabuddin	6	0	17	1
Rumjahn	14	2	43	3
Yeow	15	4	23	5
Lam	2	1	4	0
Osman	2.1	0	10	1

PRESENT—1st Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
A. A. Rumjahn, b Ng Sze-kwong	24			
H. N. Balbetchet, c Severn, b Hunt	06			
M. H. Roffey, c Hall, b Ng Sze-kwong	5			
D. Leung, b.w. Hunt	11			
S. O. Shabuddin, b.w. Severn	18			
T. O. Yeow, b.w. Severn	7			
B. P. Ng, not out	36			
M. B. Osman, c Choe, b Severn	4			
S. Hachuma, c Gittins, b Ng Sze-kwong	8			
Extras	8			
Total (8 wickets declared)	210			

C. W. Lam and R. Ponsoby fame did not bat.

Bowling Analysis.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
H. E. Sir C. Severn	9	0	59	3
Ng Sze-kwong	13.1	0	63	3
Yew Man-tsun	5	0	22	0
C. Choe	4	0	19	0
H. C. Hunt	4	0	40	2
A. H. Rumjahn, b Rumjahn	45			
Ng Sze-kwong, b Rumjahn	9			
C. Chan, c Osman, b Rumjahn	4			
W. Gittins, c Lam, b Rumjahn	7			
H. C. Hunt, b Balbetchet	4			
Wei Wing-lok, absent	0			
Yew Man-tsun, b Ng Bow-poo	9			
W. Hall, b Rumjahn	0			
A. J. Kew, c Lam, b Rumjahn	8			
J. M. Jack, c Yeow, b Rumjahn	0			
H. E. Sir Claud Severn, not out	12			
Extras	12			
Total	120			

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All broken, chafed and damaged goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined by Messrs. Goddard & Douglas on the 13th February 1924, at 10 a.m.

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Photo by Central News.

Messrs. Selfridges have adopted a novel dress for their waitresses—an example which will no doubt be followed by other leading caterers in London. This well-known firm holds the opinion that men get about so much more quickly than girls, simply because they wear trousers. Therefore to prove this theory all the waitresses in the luncheon hall have adopted white duck trousers, with the addition of a white chef's cap with a blue band.



Photo by Central News.

President Masaryk received the degree of D.C.L. at Oxford University. He is shown here with the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Joseph Walls, M.A.

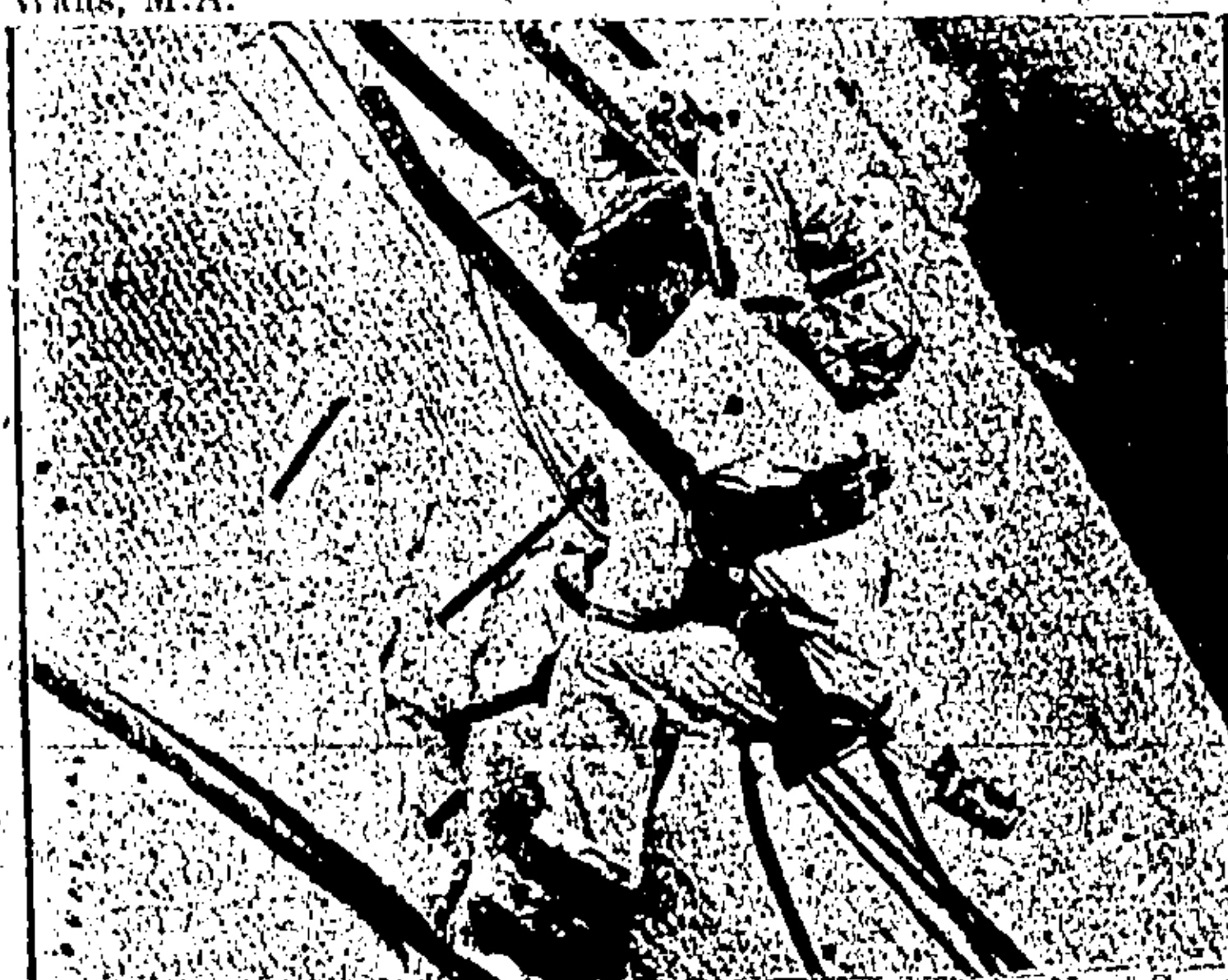


Photo by Central News.

The largest monument in the world. Men at work carving the 700-foot design on the mountain side, near Atlanta, Georgia, a tribute from the South of to-day to the South of 1861-65. They are prevented from falling by straps.

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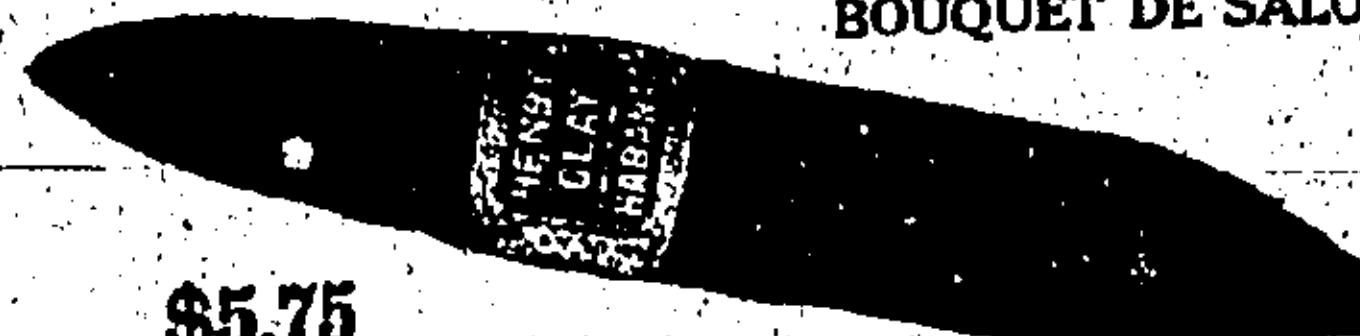
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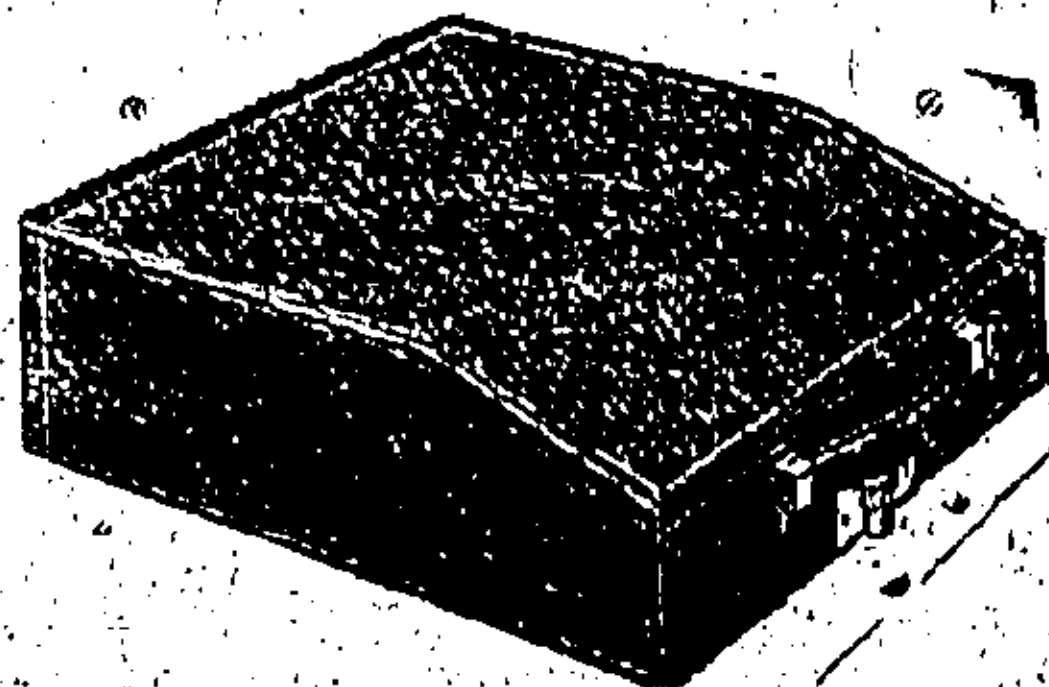
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